

# Massachusetts Statewide Ballot Questions 1919-1990

The table below indicates the total number of each type of binding question which has appeared on the ballot since 1919 and the number of each type which have been approved. It also includes a short description of the requirements for approval for each type of question.

<u>TYPE OF QUESTION</u>	<u>REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ON THE BALLOT SINCE 1919</u>	<u>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS APPROVED</u>
Initiative Petition for a law	-30% or more of voters casting ballots at the election must vote affirmatively -Majority of ballots cast on the question must be affirmative	39	18
Initiative Petition for a Constitutional Amendment	-30% or more of voters casting ballots at the election must vote affirmatively -Majority of ballots cast on the question must be affirmative	6	5
Legislative Constitutional Amendment	-Majority of ballots cast on the question must be affirmative	55	47
Referendum Petition	-30% or more of voters casting ballots at the election must vote against the law -Majority of voters casting ballots on the question must vote against the law	17	8
Legislative Advisory Question	-Non-binding advice to legislature if approved by a majority	12	11
U.S. Constitutional Amendment (Advisory)	-majority	3	2



312066 0285 2806 8

# Statistics Regarding Ballot Questions From 1978 To 1990

**Citizen Initiated only (Not including legislative constitutional amendments  
or Non-binding questions.)**

YEAR	Pass	Fail
1990	2	2
1988	1	3
1986	3	1
1984		
1982	1	1
1980	2	1
1978 (all legislative)	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>

**All Questions, past 12 years (includes legislative constitutional  
amendments and non-binding questions.)**

YEAR	Pass	Fail
1990	4	2
1988	1	3
1986	5	3
1984		
1982	2	2
1980	4	2
1978	7	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>

## INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DATE FILED</u>
1919	R	Boston and Maine Railroad	June 21, 1919
	R	Right of Suffrage for Women	July 18, 1919
	I	Mothers and Children During the Maternity Period	Aug. 5, 1919
	R	Public Schools	Aug. 6, 1919
	I	Liquor	Aug. 28, 1919
	I	Lands for State Forests	Sept. 3, 1919
	R	Banks	April 28, 1919
1920	I	Manufacture of Beer, Cider and Light Wine	June 7, 1920
	R	State Boxing Commission	June 8, 1920
1921	R	Lawsuits concerning Associations	May 12, 1921
	I	Savings Banks	October 4, 1921
1922	R	Transporting of Liquor	May 22, 1922
1923	R	Political Parties	March 15, 1923
	R	Transporting of Liquor	May 11, 1923
	R	Highways	May 28, 1923
	R	Transfer of Money	June 13, 1923
	I	Transfer of Prisoners	Sept. 5, 1923
	I	Constitutional Convention	Oct. 9, 1923
	I	Street Railways	Oct. 13, 1923
1924	I	Sports and Games on the Lord's Day	Aug. 30, 1924
1925	R	Common Carriers of Passengers	May 4, 1925
	I	Veterans' Preference	Sept. 2, 1925
1927	I	Repeal of Eighteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution	Sept. 7, 1927
	I	Sports and Games on the Lord's Day	Sept. 7, 1927
	I	Armistice Day	Sept. 7, 1927

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DATE FILED</u>
1928	I	Sports and Games on the Lord's Day	June 7, 1928
1929	I	Anti-Steel Trap Law	Sept. 24, 1929
	I	Transporting of Liquor	Sept. 5, 1929
	I	State Motor Vehicle Insurance Fund	Dec. 3, 1929
	I	Industrial Accident Insurance	Nov. 29, 1929
1930	I	Transportation of Liquor	June 4, 1930
	I	Co-Educational Institution of Learning in Boston	Sept. 13, 1930
1931	R	Congressional Districts	July 13, 1931
	I	State and Party Primaries	Sept. 3, 1931
	I	Mayoralty Elections	Oct. 16, 1931
	I	Chiropractors	Oct. 23, 1931
	I	Motor Vehicle Insurance	Nov. 17, 1931
1932		Public Policy	June 9, 1932
	R	Automobile Insurance	June 11, 1932
1933	R	Traps	June 6, 1933
	R	Motor Trucks	Aug 2, 1933
	I	Operation of Chain Stores	Sept. 15, 1933
	I	Motor Vehicle Insurance	Sept. 19, 1933
	I	Biennial Sessions and Budgets	Oct 2, 1933
	I	Racing Commission	Oct 3, 1933
1934	R	Trapping of Animals	July 3, 1934
	I	Flat Rate Auto Insurance	Sept 5, 1934
	I	Foreign Life Insurance Companies	Sept. 12, 1934
	I	Biennial Sessions of the General Court and Biennial Budget	Oct 6, 1934
1935	I	Horse and Dog Racing	Sept 4, 1935
	L	Purchase and Development of State Forests	Oct 1, 1935
1936	I	Motor Vehicle Revenues	Sept 10, 1936
	I	Tax Limitation on Real Estate	Sept 30, 1936

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DATE FILED</u>
1937	R	Party Primaries and Pre-Primary Conventions	June 25, 1937
	I	Horse and Dog Racing	Sept 1, 1937
	I	Taxicabs	Sept 14, 1937
	I	Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance	Oct 7, 1937
	I	Parí-Mutuel Betting	Oct 21, 1937
1939	R	Cigarette Tax	Sept. 7, 1939
1940	I	Horse and Dog Racing	Sept 13, 1940
1940	I	County Penal Institutions	Sept 4, 1940
	I	Public Employment of Married Women	Sept 4, 1940
	I	Contraceptive Care *	Sept 4, 1940
	I	Taxation of Growing Crops	Sept 14, 1940
	I	State Fund for Workmen's Compensation *	Nov 5, 1940
1941	R	Excise Tax on Meals	Nov. 25, 1941
1942	I	State Fund for Workmen's Compensation	Sept 3, 1942
	I	Old Age Assistance	Sept 15, 1942
	I	Transportation of School Children	Oct 15, 1942
1943	R	Compensation of Life Insurance Agents	May 24, 1943
	R	Beano *	June 14, 1943
1944	I	Transportation of Private School Pupils	Oct 11, 1944
	I	Old Age Assistance *	Sept 7, 1944
1945	I	Interest on Small Loans	Sept 4, 1945
	I	Contributions of Labor Unions *	Sept 5, 1945
1946	I	Transportation of Private School Pupils	Sept 4, 1946
1947	I	Transportation of Private School Children	Sept 3, 1947
	I	Beano	Sept 3, 1947
	I	Horse and Dog Racing Meetings	Sept 3, 1947
	I	Pawnbrokers	Sept 12, 1947

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DATE FILED</u>
1947	I	Strikes by Labor Organizations *	Sept 4, 1947
	I	Officers of Labor Organizations *	Sept 3, 1947
	I	Membership of Labor Organizations *	Sept 3, 1947
	I	Medical Contraceptive Care *	Sept 3, 1947
1948		Summaries of Proposed Legislative Amendments and Measures Proposed by Initiative Petitions 1948 Election	July 14, 1948
1949	I	Assistance to Aged Persons	Sept 14, 1949
	R	Cigars and Other Tobacco	Sept 27, 1949
	I	Off-Track Betting	Sept 28, 1949
	I	Cash Sickness and Compensation	Sept 27, 1949
1950	I	Risks and Premium Charges	June 12, 1950
1954		Flouridation (Papers of the Mass. Women's Political Club)	Oct 14, 1959
1959	I	Mt. Greylock Tramway	Oct 14, 1959
1960	R	Salary of the General Court	Dec 28, 1960
1961	I	Massachusetts Turnpike	Sept 6, 1961
1962	I	Election of State Officers	Sept 5, 1962
	I	Abolition of the Council	Sept 5, 1962
	I	Prorogation of the General Court	Sept 5, 1962
	I	Home Rule	Sept 5, 1962
	I	Executive Department	Sept 5, 1962
1963	I	Governor's Council (Received on July 31, 1963 by Attorney General)	
	R	Expenses of Members of the General Court	July 9, 1963
	I	Beano	Sept 4, 1963
	I	Constitutional Convention	Sept 5, 1963
1965	I	Urban Renewal Procedure	Sept 1, 1965

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DATE FILED</u>
1966	R	Sales Tax	Mar 29 and 31 1966
	I	Reduction of the House of Representatives Membership to 160	Sept 7, 1966
1967	I	Reduction of Membership of the House of Representatives	Sept 6, 1967
	I	Racial Imbalance in Public Schools	Sept 6, 1967
	I	Pre-Primary Conventions	Sept 6, 1967
	R	Repeal of Ch.601, Acts of 1967, Concerning Photographs on Drivers' Licenses	Oct 6, 1967
968	R	Monday Holidays	Mar 5, 1968
	R	Suspension of Ch. 548, Acts of 1968, On Flouridation	July 26, 1968
969	I	Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies	Sept 3, 1969
	I	Merit System for Commonwealth Employees	Sept 3, 1969
	I	Minimum Age for Voting	Sept 4, 1969
	I	Repeal of Penalties for Blasphemy	Sept 2, 1970
	I	Repeal of Penalties for Procuring Miscarriages	Sept 2, 1970
	I	Repeal of Penalties for Crimes against Nature	Sept 2, 1970
	I	Repeal of Penalties for Unnatural and Lascivious Acts	Sept 2, 1970
	I	Repeal of Penalties for Fornication	Sept 2, 1970
971	I	Fluoridation of Water Supplies	Sept 1, 1971
	R	Imposition of Taxes	Aug 20, 1971
972	I	Protection of Children	Sept 12, 1972
	I	Repeal of Racial Imbalance Law	Sept 6, 1972
973	I	Director Campaign and Political Finances	Sept 5, 1973
	I	Chemicals in Water Supply	Sept 6, 1973
	I	Repeal of Racial Imbalance Law	Sept 5, 1973
	I	Elected and Appointed Officials	Sept 5, 1973



<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DATE FILED</u>
1973	I	School Budget	Sept 5, 1973
1974	I	Corrupt Practices Commission (See also papers filed Sept 5, 1973)	May 29, 1974
	I	Repeal of Ch.430, Acts of 1974 (Anti-Obscenity Law)	July 18, 1974
	I	Right to Own Firearms	Sept 4, 1974
	I	Arrest of Persons Committing a Felony With A Firearm	Sept 4, 1974
		Opinions of the Attorney General Concerning Public Policy Questions on the 1974 Ballot	Oct 7, 1974
		Summaries by the Attorney General of Amend- ments to the State Constitution on the 1974 Ballot	July 23, 1974
1975	I	Massachusetts Power Authority	Sept 4, 1974
	I	Ban on Handguns	Sept 3, 1975
	I	Tax Limitation	Sept 3, 1975
1975	I	Constitutional Amendments on School Budgets	Sept 3, 1975
	I	Nuclear Power	Sept 3, 1975
	I	Electric Bills	Sept 3, 1975
	I	Littered Containers	Sept 3, 1975
	I	Taxation on Real Property	Sept 4, 1975
	R	Fiscal Requirements of the General Fund	July 8, 1975
		Petition Concerning Portions of Ch.684, Acts of 1975, on taxes	Dec 2, 1975
	R	Portion of Acts, 1975 Ch. 684, (Taxes)	Dec. 2, 1975
	R	Portion of Ch. 684, Acts of 1975	Dec. 2, 1975
976	I	Environmental Pollution	June 1, 1976
	I	Property Tax Relief	Sept 1, 1976
	I	Package Stores	Sept 1, 1976
	I	Handguns	Sept 3, 1976



<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DATE FILED</u>
1976	I	Electric Bills	May 5, 1976
1977	I	Terms of Office	Sept 7, 1977
	I	Manufacturers' Liability	Sept 7, 1977
	I	Marijuana Possession	Sept 7, 1977
	I	Tax Revenue Limitation	Sept 7, 1977
	I	Conflict of Interest	Sept 7, 1977
	I	Package Stores	Sept 7, 1977
	I	Clean Air	Sept 7, 1977
	I	Lower Construction Cost Through Home Rule	Sept 7, 1977
	I	Personal Use of Marijuana	Sept 7, 1977
	I	Local Acceptance of Binding Arbitration	Sept 7, 1977
	I	Telephone Consumers' Action Group	Sept 7, 1977
	I	Raising Drinking Age to 21	Sept 7, 1977
9	I	Tax Limitation	Sept 6, 1978
	I	Definition of Murder	Sept 6, 1978
	I	Audit of Taxes	Sept 6, 1978
	I	Real Estate Taxes	Sept 11, 1978
979	I	Cutting Income Taxes	Sept 5, 1979
	I	Proposition 2½	Sept 5, 1979
	I	Reduce Property Taxes	Sept 5, 1979
	I	Reduce State and Local Taxes	Sept 5, 1979
	I	Reducing and Limiting State and Local Taxes	Sept 5, 1979
	I	Limiting State and Local Taxation	Sept 5, 1979
	R	Repeal of Ch. 13, Acts of 1979 (Drinking)	Mar 19, 1979
	R	Repeal of Ch.677, Acts of 1979 (Salaries)	Nov 23, 1979
	I	Tax Relief	Sept 5, 1979
981	I	Abolish Registry of Motor Vehicles	Sept 3, 1981
	R	Repeal of Ch. 371, Acts of 1981 (Bottle Deposit)	Dec 14, 1981
	I	Budget Process (1)	Sept 10, 1981

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DATE FILED</u>
1981	I	Budget Process (2)	Sept 10, 1981
	I	Budget Process (3)	Sept 10, 1981
	I	Election of D.P.U. Commissioner	Sept 3, 1981
	I	Legislative Reform	Sept 3, 1981
	I	Legislative Sessions	Sept 3, 1981
	I	Nuclear Power	Sept 3, 1981
	I	Recall of State Representatives	Sept 3, 1981
1983	R	Chapter 455, Acts of 1982 (Salaries)	Jan 3, 1983
	I	Pound Seizure	Sept 7, 1983
	I	Hazardous Waste	Sept 7, 1983
	I	Workers' Compensation	Sept 8, 1983
	I	Toxic and Hazardous Substances	Sept 8, 1983
	I	Length of the Legislative Session	Sept 8, 1983
	I	Disability Income	Sept 8, 1983
	I	Reform of the General Court	Sept 8, 1983
	I	Repeal of Surtax	Sept 12, 1983
	I	Protection of Health and Safety	Sept 15, 1983
	I	Victims of Crime Bill of Rights	Sept 19, 1983
1984	I	Local Aid "A"	Sept 5, 1984
	I	Local Aid "B"	Sept 5, 1984

# INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS

SUBJECTS ON RECORD SINCE 1985 THAT HAVE BEEN FILED

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DATE FILED</u>
1985	I	Authorizing the Commonwealth Cities and Towns to control costs and create job opportunities	September 4, 1985
	I	Massachusetts Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Act	September 4, 1985
	I	Phasing out the surtax on the state personal income tax and limiting state revenue growth to the level of growth in state wages and salaries	September 4, 1985
	I	Establishing a citizens utility board	September 5, 1985
	I	Limiting acid rain and acid deposition in Massachusetts	September 5, 1985
	I	Repealing the seven and one half percent income tax surcharge and percentage and reducing the tax on unearned income to five percent	September 5, 1985
	I	Providing a more effective and simplified voter registration	September 5, 1985
	I	Repeal durtax and provide a fair tax relief	September 6, 1985
	I	For timely and effective clean up and emergency relief at oil and hazardous material disposal sites	September 12, 1985
1986	R	Seat Belts (Ch. 416 of 1985)	January 20, 1986
	I	Affordable Housing (Const.)	September 3, 1986
1987	R	Regulating legislative and constitutional officers salaries (Ch. 71 of 1987)	June 1, 1987
	I	Economic stabilization for workers and companies involved in the production of nuclear weapons systems	September 8, 1987
	I	To enable homeowners to do plumbing in their own homes	September 8, 1987

1987 (Con't)

1987	I	Making English language the official language of the Commonwealth (Const.)	September 8, 1987
	I	Making English language the official language of the Commonwealth	September 8, 1987
	I	To lower or eliminate certain taxes	September 8, 1987
	I	Prohibiting furloughs for persons convicted of first degree murder (Enacted by legislature in 1988)	September 8, 1987
	I	To stop nuclear waste	September 8, 1987
	I	Repealing the prevailing wage law for the Commonwealth	September 4, 1987
	I	Repealing the prevailing wage law for the Commonwealth	September 4, 1987
	I	To limit the interest rate that may be charged on commercial credit card loans	September 4, 1987
	I	Limiting the cost of constructing public works in the Commonwealth	September 4, 1987
	I	Regulating the treatment of farm animals	
1989	I	Abolishing the State Census (Cont. Amendment)	
	I	Restricting use of state consultants	September 8, 1989
	I	The public school improvement petition	September 8, 1989
	I	Changing requirements for political parties and candidates	September 8, 1989
	I	Allocating state aid to cities and towns	September 8, 1989
	I	Constitutional Amendment prohibiting governmental interference in reproductive decisions	September 8, 1989
	I	Constitutional amendment to limit terms of constitutional officers, speaker of the house and president of the senate	September 8, 1989
	I	Petition for a share of state revenues, reducing state income tax rate, repealing certain fee increases and setting certain tax rates	September 8, 1989
	I	Economic Conversion of Massachusetts Defense Industry	September 8, 1989

1989 (Con't)

I	Revenue Sharing between the Commonwealth and cities and towns	September 8, 1989
I	AIDS tax fund	September 8, 1989
I	Northern right whale recovery act	September 8, 1989
I	State Aid for Public Schools	September 8, 1989
I	An act to realign the income tax of Massachusetts	September 8, 1989
I	An act to invest in Massachusetts future and to remedy the fiscal crisis	September 8, 1989
I	An act to invest in Massachusetts future and to remedy the fiscal crisis	September 8, 1989
I	An act to limit the tax rate which may be established for residential property	September 8, 1989
I	An act to create a more equitable tax structure by lowering Sales tax extending sales tax to certain business services and eliminating business deductions for advertising	September 8, 1989
I	An act to realign the taxing policy of the Commonwealth	September 8, 1989
I	An act to realign the taxing policy of the Commonwealth and to control the costs of government by minimizing the use of consultants	September 8, 1989
I	An act to make certain adjustments in the income and sales tax	September 8, 1989
I	An act to realign the taxing policy of the Commonwealth	September 8, 1989
I	Constitutional Amendment for equal right to quality public education	September 8, 1989
I	Petition relative to tax and fee revenues, reducing state income tax rate, repealing certain fee increases and setting certain tax rates	September 8, 1989

Free and equal broadcast time for candidates (Legislative Advisory)

R	An act making it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation	November 16, 1989
---	--	-------------------

1990

I	Northern Right Whale Recovery Act	September 12, 1990
---	-----------------------------------	--------------------

1991

R	(Ch. 408 of 1990) An Act to provide the protection for endangered and threatened species	January 23, 1991
---	--	------------------

DATE: November 3, 1992

1992

Election

% OF VOTERS  
VOTING ON QUESTION

QUES. #	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	YES	NO	BLANKS	% OF VOTERS VOTING ON QUESTION
1	Tax on Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco	Initiative Petition	1,429,629	1,200,434	192,570	93.17%
2	Public Reporting of Corporate Tax Information	Initiative Petition	1,372,176	1,099,584	350,873	87.57%
3	Requirement of Reduced, Reusable or Recyclable Packaging	Initiative Petition	1,071,205	1,556,294	195,134	93.08%
4	Tax on Oils and Hazardous Materials	Initiative Petition	1,051,032	1,485,448	286,153	89.86%

1990 Date: November 6, 1990

Election

QUES. #	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	YES	NO	BLANKS	% OF VOTERS VOTING ON QUESTION
1	Would abolish the requirement that a state census be taken and used as the basis for determining legislative districts.	Constitutional Amendment	1,731,341	479,999	213,239	91.21%
2	Would place limits on the use of consultants by the Commonwealth.	Initiative Petition	1,038,174	1,246,739	139,666	94.24%
3	Changing laws concerning state taxes and fees.	Initiative Petition	935,337	1,397,542	91,700	96.22%
4	Changing requirements for political parties and candidates.	Initiative Petition	1,134,535	1,027,966	262,078	89.19%
5	Allocating State Aid to Cities and Towns.	Initiative Petition	1,242,270	949,561	232,748	90.40%
6	Free and equal time to candidates for public office.	Non-binding	1,141,706	973,933	308,940	87.26%



1988

Elect

Date: November 8

ISSUE #	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	YES	NO	BLANKS	% OF VOTERS VOTING ON QUESTION
1	Would repeal law that authorized a pay raise for legislators and constitutional officers	Referendum on an existing law	429,008	2,065,532	195,089	92.74%
2	Would repeal the prevailing wage law	Law proposed by initiative petition	1,063,324	1,479,319	146,986	94.5%
3	Proposed law would regulate treatment of farm animals	Law proposed by initiative petition	713,999	1,781,172	194,458	92%
4	Proposed law would stop electric power plants that produce nuclear waste	Law proposed by initiative petition	770,800	1,626,402	292,427	89%

1986

Total votes cast: 1,777,276

Election Date: November 4

ISSUE #	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	YES	NO	BLANKS	% OF VOTERS VOTING ON QUESTION
1	Would allow legislature to prohibit or regulate abortion	Legislative amendment to Constitution	689,908	959,311	128,057	92.794%
2	Would allow public funds for private schools and students	Legislative amendment to Constitution	41.832% 502,170	58.167% 1,154,069	7.764% 121,037	93.189%
3	Repeal surtax	Initiative petition for a law	30.319% 863,130	69.68% 724,925	7.307% 189,221	89.353%
4	Would require DEOE to identify hazardous waste sites	Initiative petition for a law	54.351% 1,174,676	45.648% 404,521	11.915% 198,079	88.854%
5	Existing law required use of seat belts	Referendum petition on an existing law	74.384% 769,806	25.615% 892,580	12.543% 114,890	93.535%
6	Mail-in voter registration	Initiative petition for a law	46.307% 603,370	53.692% 966,227	6.911% 207,677	88.314%
7	Urges US Congress to enact national health care program	Legislative advisory question	38.441% 1,045,975	61.558% 510,161	13.231% 221,140	87.55%
8	Urges president and Congress	Legislative advisory question	67.21% 1,262,362	32.78% 280,379	14.21% 234,535	86.8%
			81.82%	18.17%	15.2%	

1982 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 2  
 Total Votes Cast: 2,103,780

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percentage Vote on Question</u>
1	State aid to non-public school students and certain institutions	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	708,034 34%	1,160,130 55%	235,616 11%	89%
*2	Death Penalty	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,131,668 54%	748,549 35%	223,563 11%	89%
*3	Restricting low-level radioactive waste disposal and nuclear power plant construction	Initiative Petition for a Law	1,249,462 59%	602,955 29%	251,363 12%	88%
4	Regulating bottles and cans	Referendum Petition	1,143,956 54%	791,846 38%	167,978 8%	92%

\* means that the ballot question was adopted. For referendum petitions, the NO vote prevailed, meaning the law was disapproved. This classification does not include advisory questions or United States Constitutional Amendments which are non-binding questions.

1980  
Election Date: November 4

ISSUE #	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	YES	NO	BLANKS	% OF VOTERS VOTING ON QUESTION
1	Would prohibit discrimination against handicapped persons	Proposed constitutional amendment	1,503,711	758,978	303,918	88.1%
2	Limiting local taxes (Prop 21)	Law Proposed by initiative petition	1,438,768	998,839	129,060	94.9%
3	Limiting state & local taxes & increasing state share of education costs	Law proposed by initiative petition	816,805	1,473,804	276,058	89.2%
4	Would increase salaries of certain state officials	Referendum on an existing law	265,675	2,014,261	286,731	88%
5	Would restrict state authority to place certain costs on cities & towns	Proposed constitutional amendment	1,401,897	722,425	442,345	82%
6	Would change legislative voting procedure for emergency laws	Proposed constitutional amendment	610,138	1,479,110	477,419	81%

1978 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 7  
 Total Votes Cast: 2,044,076

Issue #	Description	Type	Yes	No	Blanks	Total Percent Vote on Ques
* 1	Classification amendment	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,285,865 63%	649,400 32%	108,811 5%	95%
* 2	State budget deadline	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,223,502 60%	460,452 23%	360,122 17%	83%
* 3	Information For Voters to each residence	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,213,413 59%	480,065 24%	350,598 17%	83%
* 4	Residence standards for state census	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,142,050 56%	501,077 25%	400,949 19%	81%
* 5	Charter commission deadline	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	812,263 40%	764,800 37%	467,013 23%	77%
* 6	Student assignments to public schools	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,199,856 59%	512,667 25%	331,553 16%	84%
* 7	Taxation of land used for recreation or left in a natural state	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,031,194 51%	636,471 31%	376,411 18%	82%

\* means that the ballot question was adopted. For referendum petitions, the no vote prevailed, meaning the law was disapproved. This classification does not include advisory questions or United States Constitutional Amendments which are non-binding questions.

1976 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 2  
 Total Votes Cast: 2,594,262

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percentage Vote on Question</u>
* 1	Equal rights	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,445,066 56%	945,789 36%	203,407 8%	92%
2	Graduated income tax rates	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	645,483 24%	1,787,302 68%	211,477 8%	92%
* 3	Absentee voting for religious reasons	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,274,302 49%	1,047,929 41%	252,031 10%	90%
4	Massachusetts Power Authority	Initiative Petition for a law	346,727 13%	1,983,318 77%	264,217 10%	90%
+ 5	Ban on handguns	Initiative Petition for a law	743,014 29%	1,669,945 64%	181,303 7%	93%
6	Control bottles and cans	Initiative Petition for a law	1,207,162 47%	1,228,185 48%	158,915 7%	93%
7	Uniform electric rates	Initiative Petition for a law	608,691 24%	1,793,022 69%	192,549 7%	92%
8	Construction of an oil refinery and a deep water port	Legislative Advisory Question	1,513,165 58%	803,322 31%	277,775 11%	89%
9	Sunday closing laws	Legislative Advisory Question	1,299,144 50%	1,079,045 42%	216,073 8%	91%

+ Legislative substitute question disallowed  
 by Supreme Judicial Court

1974 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 5  
 Total Votes Cast: 1,896,421

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent. Vote on Quest.</u>
* 1	Recess by General Court	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	952,007 50%	471,087 25%	473,327 25%	75%
* 2	House membership cut to 160 from 240	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,128,315 60%	302,008 15%	466,098 25%	75%
* 3	Grants in aid to higher education	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	829,465 44%	500,298 31%	406,658 26%	75%
* 4	Highway tax use for mass transit	Initiative Petition for a Constitutional Amendment	824,077 43%	586,558 31%	485,786 26%	74%
* 5	Establishing an Independent Corrupt Practices Commission	Initiative Petition for a law	898,547 47%	475,694 25%	522,180 28%	72%
* 6	Health plan	Legislative Advisory Question	1,065,279 56%	353,854 19%	477,208 25%	75%



1972 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 7  
 Total Votes Cast: 2,503,494

Issue #	Description	Type	Yes	No	Blanks	Total Percenta Vote on Questi
* 1	Taxation of agricultural and horticultural land	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,440,093 58%	534,143 21%	529,258 21%	79%
* 2	Reducing voting age to 18	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,664,998 66%	399,624 16%	438,872 18%	82%
* 3	Remove prohibition against paupers voting	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,562,886 62%	426,510 17%	514,098 21%	79%
* 4	Student loans from Commonwealth	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,407,690 56%	666,276 27%	429,528 17%	83%
* 5	Establishing the right of people to a clean environment	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,634,674 65%	359,864 14%	508,956 20%	79%
6	Graduated income tax based on federal income tax	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	712,030 28%	1,455,639 58%	335,825 13%	86%
* 7	Retirement of judges at age 70	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,608,282 64%	502,743 20%	392,469 16%	84%
8	Lowering drinking age	Legislative Advisory Question	1,067,458 43%	1,027,914 41%	408,122 16%	84%
9	Prayer in schools	Legislative Advisory Question	1,766,980 71%	383,496 15%	353,018 14%	86%

1970 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 3  
 Total Votes Cast: 2,043,287

Issue #	Description	Type	Yes	No	Blanks	Total Percent Vote on Question
1	Classification of real property according to its use	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	556,020 20%	1,008,168 49%	479,099 24%	69%
* 2	Reducing residency requirement for voting to 6 months	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,116,008 55%	438,363 21%	488,916 24%	76%
* 3	Reducing voting age to 19	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	903,895 44%	665,573 33%	473,819 23%	77%
* 4	Redivision of representative and senatorial districts	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	779,805 38%	552,878 27%	710,524 35%	65%
+ 5	United States action in Vietnam	Legislative Advisory Question	A. 231,012 11%	B. 838,469 41%	C. 527,899 26%	78%

+ The choices for Question 5 were as follows:

- A. Win a military victory.
- B. Withdraw our armed forces in accordance with a planned schedule.
- C. Withdraw all our armed forces immediately.

1968 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 5  
 Total Votes Cast: 2,348,005

Issue #	Description	Type	Yes		No		Blanks		Total Percentage Vote on Question
* 1	Extends to 10 days time in which governor may act upon legislation	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,293,132 55%		466,560 20%		588,313 25%		75%
2	Graduated income tax	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	543,772 23%		1,290,303 55%		513,930 19%		78%
* 3	Determining gubernatorial disability	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,218,728 52%		455,020 19%		674,257 29%		71%
+ 4	Calling of a constitutional convention for a law	Initiative Petition	805,455 38%		619,392 26%		843,150 36%		64%
5	Alcoholic Beverage questions								
* 6	Shall Massachusetts retain capital punishment	Legislative Advisory Question	1,159,348 49%		730,649 31%		458,008 19%		81%

+ Supreme Judicial Court ruled that constitutional convention  
 could not be called by initiative petition.

1966 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 8  
 Total Votes Cast: 2,076,826

Issue #	Description	Type	Yes	No	Blanks	Total Percent Vote on Ques
* 1	Governor and Lt. Governor to run as a team	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,133,796 55%	415,378 20%	527,652 25%	75%
* 2	Reorganization of executive department	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,160,773 56%	353,274 17%	562,779 27%	73%
* 3	Providing for municipal industrial development	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,104,862 53%	380,222 18%	591,742 28%	71%
* 4	Home rule for cities and towns	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,186,608 57%	270,087 13%	620,131 29%	70%
5	Sales tax referendum	Referendum Petition	1,391,100 67%	358,879 17%	326,847 15%	84%
6	Temporary tax and establishing the local aid fund	Legislative Advisory Question	1,070,599 52%	446,460 21%	559,767 27%	73%

1964 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 3  
 Total Votes Cast: 2,388,430

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent Vote on Quest</u>
* 1	Four year terms for constitutional officers	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,391,922 58%	450,367 19%	546,141 23%	77%
* 2	Filling of vacant offices in event of enemy attack	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,600,324 67%	180,244 8%	607,862 25%	75%
* 3	Credit of Commonwealth given, loaned or pledged by 2/3 vote of each branch of legislature	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,351,290 57%	356,271 15%	680,869 28%	72%
* 4	Governor and Executive Council require opinions of Justices of Supreme Judicial Court on questions of law	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,474,803 62%	232,701 10%	680,926 28%	72%
* 5	Eliminating statutory authority of the Governor's Council	Initiative Petition for a law	1,133,624 47%	589,219 25%	665,587 28%	72%
* 6	Increasing the compensation and allowances of state legislators	Referendum Petition	625,194 26%	1,059,352 44%	703,884 30%	70%

1962 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 6  
 Total Votes Cast: 2,144,051

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent Vote on Quest</u>
1	Graduated income tax	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	277,611 13%	1,395,996 65%	470,444 22%	78%
* 2	Increasing the compensation and allowances of state legislators	Referendum Petition	276,091 13%	1,339,234 62%	528,726 25%	75%

1960 - No Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 8  
 Total Votes Cast: 2,495,504

1958 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 4  
 Total Votes Cast: 1,952,855

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent Vote on Quest</u>
* 1	Former public employees refunding portions of pensions depending upon yearly earnings	Initiative Petition for a law	1,011,028 52%	403,519 21%	538,308 27%	73%

1956 - No Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 6  
 Total Votes Cast: 2,388,129

1954 - No Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 2  
 Total Votes Cast: 1,942,071

1952 - No Ballot Questions  
Election Day: November 4  
Total Votes Cast: 2,424,548

1950 Ballot Questions  
Election Day: November 7  
Total Votes Cast: 1,947,071

Issue #	Description	Type	Yes	No	Blanks	Total Perce- Vote on Que
* 1	Gubernatorial succession prior to inauguration	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,151,692 59%	208,957 11%	586,422 30%	70%
* 2	Changes in number of voter signatures required for petitions and changes in legislative procedures relating to such petitions	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	992,643 51%	343,573 18%	610,855 31%	69%
* 3	Payments to blind persons, who are 63 years of age and over	Initiative Petition for a law	918,555 47%	624,362 32%	404,154 21%	79%
4	Creation of Massachusetts commission to conduct monthly lottery	Initiative Petition for a law	644,707 33%	894,685 46%	407,679 21%	79%
5	Commissioner of Insurance establishing classifications of risks in connection with motor vehicle liability policies or bonds	Initiative Petition for a law	376,636 19%	1,275,431 66%	295,004 15%	85%



1948 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 2  
 Total Votes Cast: 2,155,347

Issue #	Description	Type	Yes	No	Blanks	Total Percentage Vote on Question
* 1	"The right of free speech shall not be abridged."	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,353,307 63%	246,033 11%	556,007 26%	74%
* 2	Use of certain revenues for highway purposes only	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,329,232 62%	274,351 13%	551,764 25%	75%
* 3	Election of certain constitutional officers in case of failures to elect them or death prior to assuming office	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	1,207,103 56%	284,813 13%	663,431 31%	69%
4	Birth control advertising	Initiative Petition for a law	806,829 38%	1,085,350 50%	263,168 12%	88%
5	Membership or nonmembership in labor organization as it relates to retaining or obtaining employment	Initiative Petition for a law	505,575 23%	1,290,310 60%	359,462 17%	83%
6	Elections of officers of labor organizations must be held annually	Initiative Petition for a law	637,324 30%	1,144,732 53%	373,291 17%	83%
7	Calling of strike by labor organization dependent on majority vote of members	Initiative Petition for a law	653,932 30%	1,124,818 52%	376,597 18%	82%
8	No person shall be elected president more than twice	United States Constitutional Amendment - Advisory	1,005,915 47%	556,838 26%	592,594 27%	73%

1946 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 5  
 Total Votes Cast: 1,714,994

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent Vote on Quest</u>
1	Pensions paid by Commonwealth to citizens, 65 years of age or over in need of relief or support	Initiative Petition for a law	536,175 31%	568,026 33%	610,793 36%	64%
* 2	Labor unions must file with commissioner of labor and industries	Initiative Petition for a law	789,317 46%	360,771 21%	564,906 33%	67%

1944 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 7  
 Total Votes Cast: 2,008,969

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percen Vote on Ques</u>
* 1	Fair, concise summary of each ballot question sent to voters instead of a description of each question (Information For Voters)	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	861,148 43%	124,517 6%	1,023,304 51%	49%
* 2	Pardonning of felonious offences	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	650,475 32%	405,039 20%	953,455 48%	52%
* 3	Restoring annual sessions of General Court and annual budget	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	557,930 28%	514,675 26%	934,364 46%	54%
* 4	Absentee voting because of physical disability	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	893,139 44%	197,782 10%	918,048 46%	54%
5	Authorizing certain games of chance to be conducted by certain non-profit organizations	Referendum Petition	738,387 37%	351,918 18%	918,664 45%	55%

1942 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 3  
 Total Votes Cast: 1,420,720

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent Vote on Quest</u>
1	Revision of birth control law	Initiative Petition for a law	495,964 35%	683,059 48%	247,697 17%	83%

1940 - No Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 5  
 Total Votes Cast: 2,062,281

1938 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 8  
 Total Votes Cast: 1,795,552

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent Vote on Quest</u>
* 1	Providing biennial sessions of General Court and biennial budget	Initiative Petition for a Constitutional Amendment	748,030 42%	417,134 23%	630,308 35%	65%
* 2	Free public taxicab stands in cities and towns	Initiative Petition for a law	664,762 37%	614,487 34%	516,303 29%	71%

1936 - No Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 3  
 Total Votes Cast: 1,875,125

1934 Ballot Questions  
Election Day: November 6  
Total Votes Cast: 1,507,674

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent Vote on Quest</u>
1	Regulation of trapping	Referendum Petition	484,172 32%	320,543 21%	702,959 47%	53%

1932 Ballot Questions  
Election Day: November 8  
Total Votes Cast: 1,609,548

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent Vote on Quest</u>
1	Legalizing practice of chiropractics	Initiative Petition for a law	351,094 22%	602,520 37%	655,934 41%	59%
* 2	Regulating nominating procedures	Initiative Petition for a law	553,822 34%	262,948 16%	792,778 50%	50%
3	Fixing the commencement of terms of President and Vice-President	United States Constitutional Amendment - Advisory	784,021 49%	134,786 8%	689,941 43%	57%

1930 Ballot Questions  
Election Day: November 4  
Total Votes Cast: 1,250,114

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent Vote on Quest</u>
* 1	Apportionment of senatorial, representative and councillor districts	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	443,618 35%	159,119 12%	654,377 53%	47%
* 2	Repeal of "Baby Volstead" Act (Prohibition)	Initiative Petition for a law	649,592 52%	368,544 30%	231,978 18%	82%
* 3	Regulation of trapping	Initiative Petition for a law	606,532 49%	278,916 22%	364,666 29%	71%

1928 Ballot Questions  
Election Day: November 6  
Total Votes Cast: 1,610,014

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent Vote on Quest</u>
* 1	Authorizing certain Sunday sporting events	Initiative Petition for a law	803,281 50%	467,550 29%	339,183 21%	79%

1926 Ballot Questions  
Election Day: November 2  
Total Votes Cast: 1,038,466

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent Vote on Quest</u>
* 1	Establishing town governments which provide town meetings	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	394,538 38%	160,837 15%	483,091 47%	53%
2	Modifying veterans' preference law	Initiative Petition for a law	352,796 34%	381,895 37%	303,775 29%	71%

1924 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 4  
 Total Votes Cast: 1,213,377

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent Vote on Quest</u>
* 1	Qualifications of voters for certain state officers	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	456,919 38%	246,499 20%	509,959 42%	58%
* 2	Enabling women to hold any state, county or municipal office	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	473,744 39%	266,377 22%	473,256 39%	61%
3	Prohibition to manufacture or transport liquor or certain non-intoxicating beverages ("Baby Volstead" Act)	Referendum Petition	454,656 38%	446,473 37%	312,248 25%	74%
4	Excise tax on gasoline and other fuel	Referendum Petition	281,631 23%	547,460 45%	304,286 32%	68%
5	Regulation of foreign banking	Referendum Petition	435,141 36%	187,228 15%	591,008 49%	51%
6	Daylight saving	Legislative Advisory Question	492,239 41%	426,759 35%	294,379 24%	76%
7	Child (person under 18 years of age) labor	United States Constitutional Amendment - Advisory	241,461 20%	697,563 57%	274,353 23%	77%

1922 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 7  
 Total Votes Cast: 910,891

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent, Vote on Quest.</u>
* 1	Roll calls in General Court on adoption of preambles of emergency laws	Legislative Constitutional Amendment	333,549 36%	252,111 27%	352,321 38%	63%
* 2	Tort liability of certain voluntary associations	Referendum Petition	300,260 32%	301,205 34%	309,426 34%	66%
* 3	State censorship of motion pictures	Referendum Petition	208,252 23%	553,173 61%	149,466 16%	84%
* 4	"Baby Volstead" Act (Prohibition)	Referendum Petition	323,964 36%	427,840 47%	159,087 17%	83%
5	Lawyers only to be district attorneys	Referendum Petition	396,623 44%	282,011 31%	232,257 25%	75%

1920 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 2  
 Total Votes Cast: 1,029,138

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent, Vote on Quest.</u>
* 1	Definition of cider, beer et al, as non-intoxicating liquors	Initiative Petition for a law	442,215 43%	432,951 42%	153,972 15%	85%

1919 Ballot Questions  
 Election Day: November 4  
 Total Votes Cast: 529,314

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Total Percent<sup>a</sup> Vote on Questi</u>
+ 1	Rearrangement of Constitution of Commonwealth	Similar to Constitutional Amendment	263,359 50%	64,978 12%	200,977 38%	62%
2	Interest and dividends on savings deposits in banks	Referendum Petition	257,136 49%	110,412 21%	161,766 30%	70%

+ Placed on ballot by constitutional convention;  
 ruled invalid by Supreme Judicial Court after passage



